

August 10, 2009 - Murtha Joins Local Officials to Break Ground on Pt. Marion Water Project

(USDA Press Release)

USDA

Rural Development Awards the Borough of Point Marion a \$1,662,000 Loan to Install New Waterlines and Construct a 50,000 Gallon Water Storage Tank

Point

Marion, PA – August 10, 2009 – Congressman John P. Murtha (PA-12), USDA Rural Development’s Tom Williams, State Director, and Colonel Michael Crall, Pittsburgh District Engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers participated in a groundbreaking this morning at the Point Marion Borough Water Line Replacement project site.

“Infrastructure

projects like this are essential to the health and welfare of our constituents, but the local community can’t always afford to build them. That’s the exact reason we created the South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Infrastructure program. I am fortunate to be able to fund this program each year so communities like Pt. Marion can

build their projects at an affordable rate to their customers. The USDA has been a tremendous partner over my years in Congress and they, the Army Corps and all participants should be commended for the work they have done here and I'm happy to have played a role in its success," said Congressman Murtha.

"Rural

Development's funding to Point Marion for its sewer extension project demonstrates Rural Development's commitment to the future of our rural communities," said Tom Williams, State Director. "The Point Marion residents in the service area that will be covered by the waterline replacement will benefit with an improved quality of life," added Williams.

"Great

projects such as this come about when local, state and federal partners work together to help improve people's lives.

The South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Infrastructure Program provides a vehicle for the Corps to assist local communities with the design and construction of water supply, storage and distribution facilities. This Point Marion project will not only benefit this community, it will contribute to the national goal of improving environmental quality," noted Colonel Crall.

Rural Development's \$1,662,000

loan, coupled with \$500,000 from the Corps of Engineers and a \$50,000 grant from PA Department of Community and Economic Development will be used to replace and construct 24,900 linear feet of various sized distribution lines to serve 537 households within the community of Point Marion. In addition, funds will be used to construct a new 50,000 gallon water storage tank. Point Marion Borough's water system consists, in some cases, of lines dating back to the early 1900s. In recent years, the Borough has experienced several periods of high turbidity resulting in muddy flows in the distribution system. The turbidity is attributed to severe deterioration of aged waterlines as well as the lack of blow off (clean out valves to prevent water back-up) locations in some areas of the distribution system.

The problem is most prominent during times of high flow like fire fighting and/or blow-off valve maintenance activities. Over the past number of years, the Borough has experienced a growing number of line breaks. Based on the information provided by Borough water personnel, there have been approximately 80 breaks in the distribution system over a 5 year period.

USDA Rural Development serves as the

lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs and renewable energy; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects.

For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at

www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

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